

# License Plates for Michigan's Historical Vehicles

Michigan, automobile capital of the world, has many residents who collect and restore antique vehicles. Since 1956, the state has allowed a special, inexpensive vehicle registration for older vehicles that are on the road only occasionally.

Many antique cars, trucks, and motorcycles qualify for special registration as Michigan historical vehicles. A qualifying vehicle may be registered with the Michigan Secretary of State either with a Michigan historical vehicle plate, or an actual Michigan license plate of the same year the vehicle was manufactured.

A historical vehicle must be:

- More than 25 years old.
- Owned solely as a collector's item.
- Used only for events such as historical club activities, parades, and car shows.

A designated historical vehicle may not be used for routine transportation.

## Historical Vehicle Plate

The Michigan historical vehicle plate is navy blue with yellow lettering. It has six numbers (four if a motorcycle plate). Historical vehicle plates are available for a \$30 fee, and are valid for ten years. To obtain one, present the following items at any Secretary of State branch office:

- (A) Proof of ownership, preferably a copy of the title.
- (B) Proof of Michigan no-fault insurance.
- (C) \$30 fee (*make checks payable to "State of Michigan"*).
- (D) The completed application on the reverse side.

If you do not have the original title or a copy of it, present a previous registration document as proof of ownership. Your historical vehicle plate will be mailed from Lansing to the address on the registration within two weeks.

## Authentic License Plate

Michigan also allows you to use a same-year Michigan license plate to register an antique vehicle. The registration fee is \$35. An authentic plate registration processed after January 1, 1997, is valid until you sell, transfer, scrap, or modify the vehicle. Authentic license plates must be registered by mail, and are *not handled by any Secretary of State branch offices*. To obtain a registration, send:

- (A) A photocopy of the license plate you plan to use (*do not mail the original plate.*).
- (B) Proof of ownership, preferably a copy of the title.
- (C) Proof of Michigan no-fault insurance.
- (D) \$35 fee (*make checks payable to "State of Michigan"*).
- (E) The completed application on the reverse side.

You will receive a new registration within two weeks.

From 1956 to 1988, historical vehicle plates were issued with no expiration date. All plates issued before January 1, 1988, expired April 15, 1993.

Historical vehicle and authentic plates issued between January 1, 1988, and January 1, 1997 expire on April 15 the fifth year after issuance or renewal.

## Application and Certification

Name			Street Address		
City			State	ZIP	County
Vehicle Year	Make	Body Style	Vehicle Number		
Authentic Plate No. ( <i>if desired</i> )		Plate Year			

Certification: I certify that this historical vehicle is owned solely as a collector's item and is used only for historical club activities, parades, car shows, etc., and not for routine transportation.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To renew or obtain a Historical Vehicle Plate by mail, follow directions on the reverse side and mail this application with appropriate enclosures to:

**Bureau of Driver & Vehicle Records • Michigan Department of State**  
**7064 Crowner Drive • Lansing, MI 48918 - 1530**  
**(517) 322-1473**



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*1956 Oldsmobile Ninety-eight Deluxe Holiday Sedan*  
*Photo courtesy of Oldsmobile History Center*

Michigan Historical Vehicle Plate

